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Title: Need to review the proposed move to close down regional Offices of Rubber Board in Kerala.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Proposed move of Rubber Board to close down a large number of its regional offices in the state would make the Rubber Board's services inaccessible for farmers. Of the approximate 44 regional offices of the Rubber Board in the country, around 25 are in Kerala. Kerala has 12 Lakh rubber farmers and 90 percent of the total rubber production is from Kerala. Farmers largely depend on these regional offices during replantation, cultivation assistance and for availing rubber subsidy.

The Board's decision to close down, merge and reduce the strength of rubber board offices in the state will affect the farmers. They are already facing an economic crisis due to the sharp fall in prices of natural rubber. Hence, I request the Government for immediate withdrawal of the move.